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S/N 09/828451PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	James G. Skakoon et al.	Examiner:	Kathryn Odland
Serial No.:	09/828451	Group Art Unit:	3743
Filed:	April 6, 2001	Docket No.:	723.031US1
Title:	DEEP ORGAN ACCESS DEVICE AND METHOD		

PROPOSED CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-89 (Canceled)

90. (Previously Presented) A device for immobilizing a primary instrument, including:
a base, sized and shaped to be secured about a burr hole in a skull; and
coupled to the base, a stabilizer to engage the instrument inserted through the burr hole,
the stabilizer including a movable member, wherein an edge of the movable member and an
opposing surface of the stabilizer define a radial opening that extends inward **from an outer
perimeter of the stabilizer**, and the opening is sized and shaped to immobilize the instrument
with respect to the burr hole.

Claims 91-92 (Canceled)

93. (Original) The device of claim 90, in which the base comprises a ring defining an
access lumen concentric to the burr hole.

94. (Original) The device of claim 93, in which the base further comprises a lip, extending
circumferentially about the access lumen, the lip sized and shaped to receive and support at least
a portion of the stabilizer.

PROPOSED CLAIMS (FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY)

Serial Number: 09/828451

Filing Date: April 6, 2001

Title: DEEP ORGAN ACCESS DEVICE AND METHOD

Page 2
Dkt: 723.031US1

95. (Original) The device of claim 94, in which the stabilizer includes a disk, sized and shaped to fit within the base and to be received and supported by the lip, the disk covering at least a portion of the access lumen.
96. (Original) The device of claim 95, in which the movable member includes a hinged member.
97. (Original) The device of claim 96, in which the hinged member includes a cam that is hingedly coupled to the disk.
98. (Original) The device of claim 93, in which the base comprises an exit groove extending outward from the access lumen, the exit groove sized and shaped to receive at least a portion of the instrument therein to permit the instrument to exit the base.
99. (Original) The device of claim 90, in which the base comprises at least one receptacle sized and shaped to receive a mating portion of a cap sized and shaped to substantially cover the access lumen.
100. (Original) The device of claim 90, in which the stabilizer includes a disk, sized and shaped to cover at least a portion of the burr hole, and wherein the movable member includes:
a hinge, coupling the movable member to the disk; and
a catch, engaging the disk to secure the movable member in a closed position to substantially immobilize the instrument.
101. (Original) The device of claim 100, in which the movable member includes an engagement sized and shaped to receive a tool for moving the movable member to the closed position.
102. (Original) The device of claim 90, further including a cap sized and shaped to engage the base and substantially cover the burr hole.

PROPOSED CLAIMS (FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY)

Serial Number: 09/R28451

Filing Date: April 6, 2001

Title: DEHP ORGAN ACCESS DEVICE AND METHOD

Page 3

Dkt: 723.031US1

103. (Proposed Amendment) A device for immobilizing a primary instrument, comprising:
a ring-shaped base, defining an access lumen therethrough; and
a stabilizer, sized and shaped to be supported within the access lumen, the stabilizer including:

a disk, including a radial slot; and

a movable member, hingedly coupled to the disk to adjustably overlay a portion of the radial slot to clamp the instrument within the radial slot, wherein the disk and the movable member ~~substantially~~ cover the access lumen except for the radial slot, when the moveable member is engaged to the disk in a closed position.

104. (Original) The device of claim 103, in which the movable member includes a catch that engages the disk to restrict movement between the movable member and the disk to clamp the instrument.

105. (Original) The device of claim 103, in which the disk is 360-degree rotatable within the access lumen to orient the radial slot such that the instrument is capable of being clamped within the radial slot at any desired location within the access lumen.

106. (Original) The device of claim 103, in which the base includes an exit groove extending radially outward from the access lumen, the exit groove sized and shaped to receive a portion of the instrument.

107. (Proposed Amendment) A device comprising:
a ring-shaped base, sized and shaped to be secured about a burr hole in a skull, the base defining an access lumen therethrough that is concentric to the burr hole, the base including a lip circumferentially surrounding the access lumen, the base further including an exit groove extending outward from the access lumen, the exit groove sized and shaped to receive an electrode therethrough; and

PROPOSED CLAIMS (FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY)

Serial Number: 09/828451

Filing Date: April 6, 2001

Title: DEEP ORGAN ACCESS DEVICE AND METHOD

Page 4
Dkt: 723.031 US1

an electrode stabilizer, sized and shaped to be supported on the lip and carried within the access lumen, the stabilizer including:

a rotatable disk, including a radial slot, wherein the radial slot is positionable ~~over~~ substantially to allow access through the radial slot to the entire access lumen; and

a movable member, hingedly coupled to the disk to adjustably overlay a portion of the radial slot, the movable member including a catch fixing a position of the movable member with respect to the disk to clamp the electrode anywhere along the radial slot.

108. (Previously Presented) A device comprising:

a ring-shaped base, sized and shaped to be secured about a burr hole in a skull, the base defining an access lumen therethrough that is concentric to the burr hole;

means, supported by the base and carried within the access lumen, for securing an instrument extending through the access lumen and the burr hole; and

a cap, couplable to the base, the cap sized and shaped to cover the access lumen.

109. (Cancelled) The device of claim 108, in which one of the base and the cap includes at least one receptacle and the other of the base and the cap includes at least one snap-fit leg mating to the at least one receptacle.

110. (Cancelled) The device of claim 109, in which the cap includes at least one exit groove that is configured to align with at least one other exit groove in the base.

111. (Proposed Amendment) A device comprising:

a ring-shaped base, defining an access lumen therethrough, the base including a lip circumferentially surrounding the access lumen;

a stabilizer, sized and shaped to be supported on the lip and carried within the access lumen, the stabilizer including:

a rotatable disk, including a radial slot that is rotatably orientable to allow access through the radial slot to the entire access lumen; and

PROPOSED CLAIMS (FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY)

Serial Number: 09/828451

Filing Date: April 6, 2001

Title: DEEP ORGAN ACCESS DEVICE AND METHOD

Page 5
Dkt: 723.031US1

a movable member, hingedly coupled to the disk to adjustably overlay a portion of the radial slot, the movable member including a catch fixing a position of the movable member with respect to the disk, wherein the movable member includes a recess sized and shaped to receive a tool for moving the movable member between open and closed positions.

112. (Previously Presented) A device for immobilizing a primary instrument, the device comprising:

a base, sized and shaped to be secured about a burr hole opening in a skull, the burr hole opening in the skull defining at an external surface of the skull a burr hole plane, the base including a lateral stabilizer oriented to grasp and immobilize a portion of the instrument passing substantially parallel to the burr hole plane, and the base defining an access lumen therethrough that is concentric to the burr hole; and

coupled to the base, a vertical stabilizer to engage the instrument inserted through the burr hole, the vertical stabilizer oriented to grasp and immobilize a portion of the instrument passing substantially perpendicularly to the burr hole plane, wherein the vertical stabilizer substantially covers the burr hole and the vertical stabilizer is dimensioned and configured to immobilize the portion of the instrument at any location within the access lumen.

113. (Original) The device of claim 112, in which the lateral stabilizer includes a groove formed in the base.

114. (Original) The device of claim 113, in which the vertical stabilizer includes a movable clamp, the movable clamp capable of motion, in a plane that is substantially parallel to the burr hole plane, providing an adjustably-sized opening that, in an open position, permits the portion of the instrument passing substantially perpendicularly to the burr hole plane to pass freely through the adjustably-sized opening, and, in a closed position, grasps and immobilizes the portion of the instrument passing substantially perpendicularly to the burr hole plane.

115. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108, wherein one of the base and the cap includes at least one receptacle and the other of the base and the cap includes at least one snap-fit

PROPOSED CLAIMS (FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY)

Serial Number: 09/828451

Filing Date: April 6, 2001

Title: DEEP ORGAN ACCESS DEVICE AND METHOD

Page 6

Dkt: 723.0311JN1

leg sized and shaped to fit within the at least one receptacle and retain the cap against the base, and the cap includes at least one exit groove that is configured to align with at least one other exit groove in the base.

116. (Proposed Amendment) A device for immobilizing an instrument comprising:
a base sized and shaped to be secured around a burr hole, wherein the base includes an access lumen that is at least partially coincident with the burr hole;
an insert coupled to the base, wherein the insert includes a radial slot extending from substantially the center of the insert to the an outer perimeter of the insert, and the insert defines at least one face of the radial slot; and
a moveable clamping member coupled to the insert, wherein the clamping member defines an opposing face of the radial slot, and the opposing face is moveable into engagement against the at least one face of the radial slot.
117. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 116, further comprising a cap couplable to the base, wherein one of the base and the cap includes at least one receptacle and the other of the base and the cap includes at least one snap-fit leg sized and shaped to fit within the at least one receptacle and retain the cap against the base.
118. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 116, wherein the insert is rotatably coupled to the base, and rotation of the insert is operable to dispose the radial slot over any portion of the access lumen.
119. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 116, wherein the opposing face of the clamping member is operable to engage an instrument against the at least one face of the radial slot anywhere along the opposing face and the at least one face.
120. (Previously Presented) A device for immobilizing an instrument comprising:
a base sized and shaped to be secured around a burr hole, wherein the base includes an access lumen that is at least partially coincident with the burr hole;

PROPOSED CLAIMS (FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY)

Serial Number: 09/828451

Filing Date: April 6, 2001

Title: DEEP ORGAN ACCESS DEVICE AND METHOD

Page 7

Dkt: 723 031US1

an insert rotatably coupled to the base, wherein the insert includes a radial slot extending from substantially the center of the insert to the an outer perimeter of the insert, and the insert defines at least one face of the radial slot; and

a moveable clamping member coupled to the insert, wherein the clamping member defines an opposing face of the radial slot, and rotation of the insert is operable to dispose the radial slot over any portion of the access lumen to allow retention of the instrument at any location within the access lumen.

121. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 120, wherein the opposing face of the radial slot is engaged near the at least one face in a closed position such that an instrument is clamped between the at least one face and the opposing face.

122. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 121, wherein the opposing face and the at least one face are operable to retain an instrument at substantially any position along the opposing face and the at least one face.

123. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 120, wherein the base includes an exit groove sized and shaped to grasp the instrument disposed therein.

124. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 123, further comprising a cap sized and shaped to cover the access lumen, wherein the cap is operable to engage against the instrument disposed within the exit groove.

125. (Previously Presented) A device for immobilizing an instrument comprising:
a base sized and shaped to be secured around a burr hole, wherein the base includes an access lumen that is at least partially coincident with the burr hole;
an insert rotatably coupled to the base; and
a clamping means for immobilizing an instrument anywhere within the access lumen.

PROPOSED CLAIMS (FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY)

Serial Number: 09/828451

Filing Date: April 6, 2001

Title: DHEP ORGAN ACCESS DEVICE AND METHOD

Page 8

Dkt: 723.031US1

126. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 125, wherein the insert defines one face of a radial slot extending inward from an outer perimeter of the insert, and the clamping means includes a moveable clamping member that defines an opposing face of the radial slot.

127. (Previously Presented) A device for immobilizing an instrument comprising:

a base sized and shaped to be secured around a burr hole, wherein the base includes an access lumen that is at least partially coincident with the burr hole;

an insert rotatably coupled to the base, wherein the insert includes a radial slot extending from substantially the center of the insert to the perimeter of the insert, and the insert defines at least one face of the radial slot; and

a clamping member rotatably coupled to the insert, wherein the clamping member defines an opposing face of the radial slot, and rotation of the insert is operable to dispose the radial slot over any portion of the access lumen to allow retention of the instrument at any location within the access lumen; and

a cap couplable to the base, wherein one of the base and the cap includes at least one receptacle and the other of the base and the cap includes at least one snap-fit leg sized and shaped to fit within the at least one receptacle and retain the cap against the base, and the cap includes at least one exit groove that is configured to align with at least one other exit groove in the base.

128. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 127, wherein the insert and the clamping member substantially cover the access lumen when the opposing face of the clamping member is positioned substantially adjacent to the at least one face of the insert in a closed position.